

of touch with the needs and the values of middle class families. Even conservative members of their own party claim that the GOP budget is too spendthrift.

The Republican budget is a reckless plan that fails to extend the life of Social Security and Medicare by even one day. Instead of strengthening these pillars of retirement security, the Republican budget spends the surplus on \$250 billion in tax cuts for the wealthiest people in this country. It is irresponsible, and it is wrong.

The Democrats have provided an alternative which strengthens and preserves Social Security and Medicare, provides targeted tax cuts to working middle class families who need it the most, provides a prescription drug benefit for all seniors, focuses on education and lowering class size and increasing discipline and accountability and standards. We can do this and still lower the national debt, lower the interest rates, and provide that targeted tax cut relief to the middle class.

The American people deserve a budget that is responsible and that is fair, not what has been concocted by the Republican leadership.

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ENFORCEMENT OF OBSCENITY LAWS NEEDED

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, pornographers in this country make more money than rock and country music combined. Pornographers bring in more dollars in a year than all Broadway productions, all theater shows, all ballet, jazz and classical music combined. And this administration is doing almost nothing about it.

The Supreme Court has ruled that obscenity is not protected by the First Amendment. Federal law prohibits interstate transportation and distribution of obscenity. But since 1992, prosecutions for interstate distribution and sale of illegal pornography are down 75 percent. In all of 1997, there were only six prosecutions by all 93 U.S. Attorneys.

The cause and effect between pornography and crime, violence against women and children, rape and child abuse, is clearly established. The President and the Department of Justice should enforce the law, not ignore it.

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AN IRRESPONSIBLE BUDGET

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the budget. The Republican budget contains tax breaks for the wealthy while ignoring working Americans, which I think is irresponsible. It is not a fiscally oriented budget that looks toward the future.

It contains deep cuts in domestic spending. The Republican budget would cut FBI agents and Drug Enforcement agents, college scholarships, air traffic controllers, and programs for women and children.

By contrast, the Democratic plan invests in education, our future in preparing our working force for the 21st Century. It reduces class sizes, protects our senior citizens, builds schools, provides college scholarships, provides affordable drug prescriptions, preserves Social Security and Medicare and pays down the deficit in a responsible manner before spending and emptying the bank account.

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The Democratic plan looks toward the future and a sensible, balanced tax relief. It is an investment in support and strength of our Social Security and Medicare, and it pays off the debt. It provides everyone with an opportunity to succeed and work hard. It provides our children, our senior citizens who are less fortunate.

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PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the world watched as five cloned piglets were introduced before an international news core. Scientists cheered the achievement as a scientific and medical breakthrough. Maybe the American people should have cheered as well since we paid for a good bit of that research with \$2 million of our tax dollars.

The Advanced Technology Program, a corporate welfare program managed by the Department of Commerce, gave a grant to the company responsible for cloning the piglets. The company, PPL Therapeutics, claims it needs taxpayer assistance because it cannot find private backing for cloning research. It will certainly be interesting to see if that company shares its profits with the American taxpayers now that they have found success.

In this modern-day nursery rhyme, five little piggies got cloned, and the American public got taken to market. The ATP gets my "Porker of the Week" Award.

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BUDGET AND DEBT REDUCTION

(Mr. SHOWS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the upcoming budget debate and the opportunity we have to pay off our debt.

Did my colleagues know that reducing our national debt would provide a tax cut in itself to millions of Americans because it will restrain and lower interest rates? Did my colleagues know that more than 25 percent of our indi-

vidual income taxes go to paying off interest on our national debt? We can greatly restructure our budget and get our real tax savings to America if we pay off the debt now.

Did my colleagues know that more than \$1.2 trillion is held by foreign investors? In 1998, the U.S. Government paid \$91 billion in interest payments to these foreign investors.

We must reduce this drain and create a stronger global economy for American business and agriculture.

This is the right thing to do. Let us give our children a strong America. Let us pay off the national debt. I urge everyone to take an honest look at the Blue Dog Coalition's proposal. I believe it would put us on the right track.

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SOUND ENERGY POLICY NEEDED FOR ECONOMY, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND LOWER GAS PRICES

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, working Americans across the country are paying the highest prices at the pump at any time since World War II. More and more of their hard-earned dollars are spent on gasoline, leaving far less dollars to be spent on their loved ones.

But the lack of any energy policy by the Clinton-Gore administration has put not only our economic security at risk but our national security as well. The United States relies on foreign imports at this point for 56 percent of its crude oil needs today. That compares to 35 percent during the Arab oil embargo in 1973. Think what that would mean to the United States if that supply were suddenly cut off.

The Clinton-Gore energy policy will just make things worse before they get better. The Department of Energy estimates that in 20 years the United States will be dependent on foreign imports for 65 percent of our crude oil needs.

We must have a sound energy policy to provide for America's economic and national security interests and lower prices at the pumps.

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SUPPORT THE STAMP OUT CANCER REAUTHORIZATION ACT

(Mr. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Stamp Out Cancer Reauthorization Act. Now, this bill would extend for an additional 2 years the breast cancer research stamp program enacted by us in the last Congress.

Now, this is a 40-cent stamp used normally for 33-cent postage. The excess revenue raised is used to provide funding for breast cancer research at NIH.

As of last month, almost 160 million stamps had been sold, raising \$11.3 million for breast cancer research. 182,800 new cases of breast cancer are estimated for the year 2000; and, sadly